



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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**Town News**

**Week of July 16, 2012**

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**News from the Town Manager**

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**Town Council Meeting – July 18**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

**Town Conducting Parking Lot And Road Maintenance**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Road Maintenance Crew will be conducting maintenance of the South Frontage Road, adjacent to Main Street, and along Meridian Blvd. between Old Mammoth Road and Sierra Park Road this summer.

**South Frontage Road**

Asphalt grinding of the roadway edges will begin on Thursday, July 26, 2012. Paving of the Frontage Road adjacent to Main Street will start the morning of Monday, August 13, 2012, and will be completed by Tuesday afternoon August 14, 2012.

**Meridian Boulevard**

Paving on Meridian Blvd. will begin on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 and will be completed by Thursday afternoon August 16, 2012.

During the maintenance work, the Town will do everything possible to minimize any impact to customer access to businesses. If you require further information or have issues during the construction please feel free to contact: Todd Murphy, Town of Mammoth Lakes Maintenance Manager at (760) 934-2422 ext. 4.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

**Notice Of Extension For Vacancies Planning Commission**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that three terms of office will expire on the Mammoth Lakes Planning Commission. The terms are for four years and expire on July 31, 2016. The Planning Commission is appointed by the Town Council and is charged with shaping the future character of the community. A new focus of the Commission is to lead community efforts on economic recovery and achieving long-term economic sustainability.

Over the last few years, the Planning Commission has delivered innovative community-based solutions to the Town Council. The Town is looking for community members who are willing to engage with the community, work collaboratively with a team, and continue to achieve results for Mammoth Lakes.

Interested parties should file an application with the Town Clerk on or before **Monday, July 16, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.** Application forms may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the Town Offices, Minaret Village Shopping Center; or by writing to P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, Attention: Town Clerk; or by phoning 934-8989, extension 267. The form can also be found on the Town's website: [www.ci.mammothlakes](http://www.ci.mammothlakes).

### **Calls for Service/Officer Observations**

202, including 1 business/building check

### **Crime Incident Reports**

28 reports, including 6 arrests

### **Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions**

65 stops; 10 citations; 19 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

### **Animal Control Incidents**

4 incidents; 0 reports

### **Wildlife**

6 calls; 0 reports

### **Projected Average Resort Occupancy**

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Saturday, July 14, 2012 = 63%

(63% same weekend in 2011, 0% change in 2012)

Sunday, July 15, 2012 - Thursday, July 19, 2012 = 44%

(42% same midweek in 2011, up 2% in 2012)

Follow 'TownofMammoth' daily on Twitter at [www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

## **Community News**

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### **Saturday Is FREE Skate Day at The Mammoth Roller Rink!**

Get over to the Mammoth Roller Rink this Saturday, July 14, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for FREE Skate Day. Experience Mammoth's new recreation hotspot with FREE skating, FREE skate rental, hit the mini-ramps, play some roller hockey, our just chill out playing table tennis/golf. Join us for a chance to win a Season Skate Pass, comp passes, and bring a few dollars for food and drink specials. Visit [www.mammothrecreation.com](http://www.mammothrecreation.com) for additional information.

### **A New California Gold Rush!**

Mammoth Lakes has long been known as a Mecca for high altitude training and home to Olympic medalists and US or World Record Holders. This summer our four square

mile town is proud to send Meb Keflezighi (Marathon), Amy Hastings (10,000m) and Morgan Uceny (1500m) to the London Olympic Games in pursuit of GOLD! Learn more about Mammoth Track Club at [www.VisitMammoth.com/Running](http://www.VisitMammoth.com/Running). GO Team USA!!!

Also big news in running this week is the ground breaking for the Mammoth Lakes Track and Field project slated to be completed by early fall 2012 – check out [www.MammothTrackProject.org](http://www.MammothTrackProject.org) to follow progress or find out how you can support the cause! For a complete list of upcoming events in Mammoth Lakes go to [www.VisitMammoth.com/events](http://www.VisitMammoth.com/events).

Fly Alaska Airlines to Mammoth Lakes from Los Angeles and take 15% off the lowest fares! Simply travel between **July 7, 2012 and September 11, 2012**. Book by August 26, 2012. Offer excludes travel on Fridays and Sundays. Discount is applied automatically. Book online at <http://bit.ly/NtE0n2>.

### **SOS Trail Days, Horseshoe & Mcleod Lakes – July 14**

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome to join Friends of the Inyo and MLTPA in beautifying Horseshoe & McLeod Lakes for the 2nd of five 2012 Mammoth Lakes Trail System Summer of Stewardship Trail Days. **What:** Bagel breakfast, trail maintenance, lakeshore cleanup and other stewardship activities followed by lunch and prizes! Please dress for trail work with sturdy, close-toed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeve shirt. Gloves and tools provided. **When & Where:** Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Horseshoe Lake. **More info:** Visit [www.mltpa.org](http://www.mltpa.org), email [drew@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:drew@friendsoftheinyo.org), or call (760) 873-6500.

### **Inyo National Forest Summer Recreation Update**

The Fourth of July is now behind us and Reds Meadow Valley is open for all to enjoy. The Forest Service wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on recreation conditions in the Inyo National Forest for this summer. As of June 29 the Reds Meadow Road is open and the mandatory shuttle bus is in operation. Devils Postpile, Reds Meadow and Minaret Falls Campgrounds are all open, however some campsites are not available due to remaining damage from the November 30 wind event. Pumice Flat Campground is expected to open soon. Upper Soda Springs and Agnew Meadows Campgrounds will have a much delayed opening and may not even open this summer season; both of these campgrounds remain closed to public entry due to hazards. Pumice Group Campground is now open and reservations are being accepted at this time.

Day hike trails to Devils Postpile, Rainbow Falls, and at Sotcher and Starkweather Lakes are all open and available for hiking, however some user created hiking trails in the valley have not been cleared. Crews continue to work clearing down trees and repairing the Pacific Crest Trail and the feeder trails to it. Please go to the Inyo National Forest website for up-to-date reports on progress in campgrounds and on trails in the Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile area, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Inyo/Blowdown>.

The Forest Service reminds people that hazards continue to be present in the general forest areas and in a small number of developed recreation sites. Numerous and varied hazards also exist in wilderness and other undeveloped forest areas in the Reds Meadow Valley, and all visitors are asked to be very aware of their surroundings and avoid all potential hazards. For more information on the Reds Meadow shuttle please go to [www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/inyo/specialplaces](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/inyo/specialplaces).

All other Inyo National Forest campgrounds are open for the season except those campgrounds listed above in Reds Meadow Valley.

The Forest Service would like to remind people that wilderness permits are required for all overnight backpacking trips in the Hoover, Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Golden Trout Wildernesses. Day hikers in the Mt. Whitney Zone also are required to have a wilderness permit. New this year, reservations for wilderness permits are now being taken on-line at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), or by calling (877) 444-6777. Night box pick-up of permits can be arranged one to two days before an entry date, except for trips staying in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Walk-in permits are also available, except for Mt. Whitney, at ranger stations and visitor centers up until trailhead quotas are reached. All wilderness travelers are asked to please plan ahead and be prepared for changing conditions. Areas of blowdown from the November 30 wind event are still being cleared, and some areas of down trees may not have even been identified yet. Rangers and crews are actively working many parts of the wilderness this summer due to the amount of down trees. For more information about wilderness conditions, permits and reservations please call the Inyo National Forest Wilderness Permit Office at (760) 873-2483, open seven days a week 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

All Inyo National Forest and partnership visitor centers are open this summer with the following schedules:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center – Open seven days a week, 8:00 – 5:00, (760) 647-3044
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center – Open seven days a week, 8:00 – 5:00, (760) 924-5500.
- Bishop Public Lands Information Center (aka White Mtn. Ranger Station) – Open seven days a week, 8:00 – 5:00; service may be limited between 1:00 and 2:00, (760) 873-2500
- Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center – Open seven days a week, 10:00 – 5:00, (760) 873-2500
- InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine – Open seven days a week, 8:00 – 5:00, (760) 876-6222

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association runs a bookstore in each of the visitor centers offering a wide selection of books on the natural and cultural history of the area, as well as maps, t-shirts, hats and other resources to help make public land exploration and discovery more enjoyable, safe and fun.

**Guided Interpretive Walks are offered daily at South Tufa at Mono Lake at 10:00, 1:00 and 6:00pm.**

A variety of other scheduled interpretive walks and programs are happening in the Mono Basin, the Mammoth Lakes area and in the Bristlecone Pine Forest. Please see the Learning Center section of the Inyo National Forest website for more information, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/learning>. Unscheduled, informal interpretive patio talks are also offered at both the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center and the Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center on an on-going basis throughout the summer.

At this time there are two day use fee sites in the Inyo National Forest, South Tufa in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and Schulman Grove in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Each location charges \$3 per person, with 95% of fees collected going back directly to enhance recreation opportunities in the area where it was collected. Interagency Passes are accepted at both locations. 80% of fees

generated from the sale of Interagency passes also stays on site, a fact which both residents and visitors may want to consider when purchasing their annual passes.

Lastly, all residents and visitors are reminded that the Inyo National Forest and the Bishop Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management have instituted Fire Restrictions as of June 25. Campfires, briquette barbecues, or stove fires are all now restricted to designated developed recreation sites and specifically posted campsites or areas. Smoking is only allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all vegetation. Please go to [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo) and click on fire restrictions for more information, and use extreme caution with anything that could cause a fire in this extremely dry year.

For more information on recreation opportunities in the Inyo National Forest please visit [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo) or stop in or call any of the visitor centers listed above.

## **Recreation Highlights**

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### **Celebrate National Park And Recreation Month!**

GET WILD and celebrate National Park and Recreation Month with the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department! Join us for a FREE Skate Day at the **Mammoth Roller Rink on Saturday, July 14, 2012**, experience the best of Mammoth in one of our many youth summer camps, and get wet and wild at the Whitmore Pool. Call the Recreation Department office at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for all July festivities.

America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month for more than 25 years, and in 2009 the U.S. House of Representatives officially mandated July as Park and Recreation Month. As the obesity epidemic continues to rage, programs like Park and Recreation Month and the First Lady's "Let's Move!" campaign are energizing an American population to adopt healthy lifestyle choices. Additional information about National Park and Recreation Month is available online at: [www.nrpa.org/july](http://www.nrpa.org/july).

### **Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp – July 16**

The 5-day Challenger Sports British Soccer Camps begins **Monday, July 16, 2012** and provides players of all ages and abilities with the rare opportunity to receive high-level soccer coaching from a team of international experts. Each day includes individual foot skills, technical drills, tactical practices, small-sided games, coached scrimmages, and a daily tournament. Equally important, the Challenger coaching staff provides your child with lessons in respect, responsibility, integrity, sportsmanship and leadership. Camp programs include a free ball and t-shirt. Mini Soccer 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (ages 3 – 5) / Half Day 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (ages 6–14). Fees: \$90 for Mini Soccer/\$120 for Half Day.

### **Sports Camp – July 16**

Enjoy active sports in this camp that includes fun with team sports such as beach volleyball, basketball, Frisbee golf, flag football, geocaching, swimming, and much more. The 5-day camp begins at 9:00 a.m. on **Monday, July 16, 2012**. Fees: \$150/\$125 Early Bird if you register at least 10 day in advance or \$40 per day.

Family Discount: \$5 discount per child after the first family member has paid the regular camp price. Register online at: [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com)

### **Youth Gymnastics Camp – July 16**

"Eat, breathe, sleep gymnastics...Join our instructor Michelle DeJong for the second gymnastic camp this summer from **July 20-22, 2012**. The 3-day camp includes 4 hours of gymnastics each day! Campers will be training on all four woman's Olympic apparatus, along with other camp fun such as games, movie's, pizza and a sleepover on Saturday night. Fees: \$160/ \$55 daily drop in rate. Family Discount: \$5 discount per child after first family member has paid regular camp price

### **Whitmore Pool Now Open**

Get wet and wild at the Whitmore Pool. Recreational swimming is offered midweek from 1:00-3:30 p.m. and from 12:00-4:00 p.m. on weekends. Lap swimming is offered every midweek morning, and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, with swim lessons scheduled Monday – through Friday at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Admission fees are \$4.50 for adults, \$2.75 for seniors/military and youth, and only \$1.50 for children (1-6 yr. olds). Ask about our Five Swim Pass – every 6<sup>th</sup> swim is FREE! Call (760) 935-4222 for hours of operation and additional information.

### **Never Have A Slow Day In Mammoth Again!**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department is proud to present the new 2012 Summer/Fall Recreation Guide. The guide is the definitive source for recreation in Mammoth Lakes packed-full of programs, events and activities for kids of all ages. Pick up your copy from any Certified Rack located throughout Mammoth Lakes, visit the Town Offices, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, or log onto [www.MammothRecreation.com](http://www.MammothRecreation.com). Whether you're looking for family fun at our many parks, challenging your endurance on our many trails or replenishing your spirit in the great outdoors, we hope you'll take advantage of what our team has created, and what awaits you in Mammoth Lakes...Your recreation Nirvana!

### **New 2012 Summer Fees**

For 2012, the Recreation Department has replaced resident and non-resident fees with "Early Bird" (EB) fees or "Regular" (Reg.) fees. Early Bird fees provide a 20% discount on camp programs if purchased 10-days in advance. This discount does not apply to the daily drop-in rate or facility rental fees. A \$5.00 family discount per child is also offered after the first family member has paid the EB or Reg. camp price.

### **Notify Me!**

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of [www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us), stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today!

### **Get Gymnastics Fever!**

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. Offered by Michelle DeJong, a level 8 competitive gymnast and Level 1-5 gymnastics coach, participants will learn to

tumble and more in a safe and structured environment. This program is also a recipient of Measure R funding with \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age programs are available:

- 3-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 5-8 yr. olds – Saturday: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Invitation only.

**NO GYMNASTICS ON 7/24, 25, & 28.**

Five session Punch Cards are available for \$60 for the first family member and \$55 for each additional family member. Private lessons are available upon request, please inquire with the instructor. Drop-ins cost \$15 per session are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

**Zumba Fitness**

Party yourself into shape with Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Cost: 10 punch-\$77.50; 5 punch-\$42.50; Drop-In rate \$10 per class and your first class is only \$5!

**NO ZUMBA ON JULY 9, YES ON JULY 16 AND THEN NO MORE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10.**

**Sports & Recreation Calendar**

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- On-going Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going Zumba Fitness at the Community Center
- On-going Whitmore Pool OPEN
- On-going Mammoth Roller Rink OPEN
- On-going Men's & Coed Softball League
- OPEN Reds Meadow, Tioga, Sonora and the Lakes Basin
- July 11-15 Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee
- July 16-20 Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp
- July 16-20 Sports Camp
- July 17 Recreation Commission Meeting
- July 18 Mammoth Lakes Music Festival
- July 20-22 Youth Gymnastics Camp II
- July 21-22 Men's D Adult Softball Tournament
- July 23-27 Next Level High Altitude Basketball Academy I
- July 23-24 Youth Climbing Camp I
- July 25-27 Grom Mania Skate Camp II
- July 28-29 Coed D Adult Softball Tournament
- July 29-29 MLFD Canoe Races and Picnic
- Jly. 30 –Ag. 3 UK International Soccer Camp II
- Jly. 30 –Ag. 3 Wilderness Camp II
- Aug. 3-5 Youth Gymnastics Camp III
- Aug. 5 Mammoth High School Football Annual Golf Tournament at Sierra Star
- Aug. 8-10 Wave Rave Concrete Kommandos
- Aug. 13-17 AYSO Advanced Training Soccer Camp
- Aug. 13-25 Next Level High Altitude Basketball Academy II
- Aug. 13-17 Wilderness Camp III

- Aug. 20-21 Youth Climbing Camp III

## **Public Service Announcements**

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### **Town Of Mammoth Lakes Files For Chapter 9 Bankruptcy Protection**

At a special meeting on Monday, July 2, 2012, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council voted unanimously to authorize the filing of a petition for relief under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code in U.S. federal court. Bankruptcy, unfortunately, is the only option that the Town is left with, after its largest creditor, Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition (MLLA) repeatedly refused to mediate its \$43 million judgment against the Town, and obtained a State court order requiring payment of the full judgment by June 30, 2012.

In the past few months, Mammoth Lakes has struggled with two problems:

One - a lack of sufficient revenue to pay its current and anticipated obligations, as evidenced by a \$2.7 million initial shortfall in its 2011-2012 fiscal year budget, balanced through painful measures in June 2011, an additional unanticipated shortfall of \$0.9 million in the same 2011-2012 fiscal year that forced the Town to reduce its already low available cash, and a projected \$2.8 million budget shortfall in its 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Two - a Writ of Mandate issued by a State Court ordering the Town pay a \$43 million judgment owed to MLLA by June 30, 2012.

The Town has attempted to deal with both of these problems in a responsible fashion, cutting many services and asking its employees and the majority of its creditors and other parties in interest to take substantial cuts in payment. These negotiations took place in the context of the neutral evaluation process established by the California Government Code (the AB 506 mediation), and concluded on June 29, 2012. The neutral evaluation was conducted by the Hon. David Coar (Ret.), a very experienced and respected former Bankruptcy and U.S. District Court Judge selected by the participants.

The Town has already implemented the cuts it proposed during mediation, in effect breaching many existing contracts. However, based on agreements reached with many of its creditors, these contract breaches will be cured in new agreements, contingent upon either (a) a settlement with MLLA or (b) a Chapter 9 plan confirmation. The Town's creditors and employees were willing to make their concessions as part of a global resolution of the Town's financial challenges; their agreements were not made without reservations, their concessions are part of a global resolution that would allow the Town to move forward in a fiscally responsible manner.

As the Town acts in keeping with these agreements and as they are ultimately consummated, the Town will be able not only to overcome its structural fiscal issues, reflected in the annual budget shortfall, but also free up approximately \$500,000 a year that can be used to pay its creditors, including MLLA, over the next 10 years, or to obtain a bond supported by that same payment stream, the proceeds of which will be paid to creditors, including MLLA.

Although invited on multiple occasions, MLLA refused to participate in the AB 506 mediation to discuss settlement or demonstrate to the mediator and the participating



creditors that the Town can afford to pay more. As a result, a mediation that might have succeeded in avoiding a Chapter 9 case failed because a crucial party simply refused even to attend and discuss any issues it might have.

The Town will ask the bankruptcy court to process its Chapter 9 case efficiently and quickly. The Town has limited financial resources and cannot afford a long drawn-out case. If the case lasts too long, it will significantly reduce the Town's available funds, necessarily reducing recoveries to the Town's unsecured creditors.

While the Town proceeds with its Chapter 9 bankruptcy case, it will remain open for business as expected, with the support from other governmental agencies:

- The Police and Fire Departments, along with other safety partners such as paramedics and Sheriff's office, will provide high levels of response and care;
- Road, parks, and airport maintenance services will continue as scheduled;
- Town Office business hours and service deliver will continue as usual without interruption of services;
- Community services and providers such as Mammoth Hospital, Mammoth Community Water District, and Mono County are separate from the Town and are not impacted.

Please direct all media inquiries to the Town Manager's Office at (760) 934-8989, extension 223.

### **Mammoth Lakes Police Department is Recruiting Reserve Officers**

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) is recruiting qualified individuals interested in serving their community as Reserve Police Officers. This recruitment effort coincides with a Level 3 Reserve Academy being presented by Cerro Coso College in the Fall.

The Basic Peace Officer Level 3 Academy will be offered through the Administration of Justice Program at the Bishop campus. The Academy will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 pm until 10 pm starting on August 28 and finishing on November 15. Tuition for the Academy is \$230.

Level 3 Reserve Officers may perform limited support functions while under the supervision of a regular Police Officer. This includes transporting arrestees without supervision.

You do not have to be affiliated with a Police Department to attend the Reserve Academy. However, the MLPD is accepting applications for Reserve Officer and, if selected in time, the MLPD will sponsor the tuition. The standards for being a Reserve Officer are the same as a regular Officer and the selection process includes medical and psychological exams and a thorough background investigation.

Anyone interested in applying for a position as a Reserve Police Officer with the MLPD should contact Sergeant Marc Moscovitz at (760) 934-2011 or by e-mail at [mmoscovitz@mammothlakespd.org](mailto:mmoscovitz@mammothlakespd.org).

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the Reserve Academy can visit Cerro Coso's website at [www.cerrocoso.edu](http://www.cerrocoso.edu) or call the local offices at (760) 934-2875 or (760) 872-1565.

## **Mammoth Mountain Announces Closure of June Mountain**

Rusty Gregory, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Chairman and CEO, announced today the company will not operate June Mountain this summer and for the upcoming 2012-13 winter season. "June has operated at an annual deficit each year since its purchase in 1986," said Gregory. "It is time to invest some of this subsidy into the analysis and planning required to position the resort for a sustainable future, then secure the approvals and financing required to create it."

Mammoth purchased June Mountain in 1986 with the idea of significantly increasing the size of the resort by building new facilities, extending new runs to the June Lake Village, and fostering additional developed ski areas along the San Joaquin Ridge, resulting in a connection between Mammoth and June Mountains. For a number of reasons, these plans were never realized and June Mountain has, in turn, suffered from an identity crisis that has both stifled its ability to achieve its full potential and required substantial financial subsidy from Mammoth on an annual basis. Cessation of operations will help the company dedicate its focus to a new future for June Mountain. Mammoth will be working with its partner the U.S. Forest Service to reach the best possible result in this endeavor.

In the weeks to come, Mammoth will be working to determine if and to what extent it can absorb June's year round workforce. Mammoth Mountain will continue to offer world-class skiing, snowboarding and summer activities for locals and visitors to the region.

## **Protect Your Home!**

Now that winter seems to have faded, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFD) wants to remind residents of your responsibility to keep your property fire safe. Long term residents are aware of the wildland fire incidence that can occur around town and especially after dry winters and with windy, hot, dry summers. From just about anywhere in town one can see the results of previous fire activity and the scars that have been left behind.

Establishing and maintaining defensible space around our property is all of our responsibilities. A well-maintained landscape enhances the beauty and value of any property— it can also serve as a fuel break. The goal is to keep your landscape lean, clean and green. The following steps can reduce your home's vulnerability from the threat of wildfire and reduce your use of irrigation.

**ZONE 1:** 30 feet or more adjacent to the home and beyond attachments such as wooden decks.

- Within the first 10 feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials (rock, pavers), or low level annuals or perennials less than 18 inches in height. There should be nothing flammable within 10 feet of the home.
- Keep this area irrigated and free from dead or dry vegetation, combustible debris, and accumulations of leaf and needle litter. Plants should be carefully spaced, low growing and free of vegetation high in resins, oils, and waxes that burn easily. Mow lawns regularly.
- Prune all trees up 1/3 the height of the tree or so the lowest limbs are 10-15 feet from the ground. If adjacent to a structure, prune up to the eave level. Clearance shall be a minimum of 10 feet from chimneys/stovepipes. Keep roof surfaces clear.
- Thin out living vegetation 30 to 50% within this zone to decrease fire intensity and continuous path of travel.

- Allow space between tops of trees to reduce the risk of crown fire.
- Keep firewood stacks/piles at least 30 feet from the home. If this is not possible, from June 1 to September 30, cover entire woodpile with properly secured, fire resistive, California State Fire Marshal tagged tarp. MLFD will have an inspector issuing citations this summer for improper wood storage.
- Water plants and trees regularly to ensure they are healthy. Do not use finely shredded mulch and mulch should be wetted periodically.
- Areas around and above propane tanks need to be kept clear of vegetation for 10 feet.

**ZONE 2:** Approximately 30 to 100 feet from the home (if your property size permits).

- Leave approximately 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or approximately 20 feet between individual trees. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the crown density.
- Limit vegetation that serves as a link between low level vegetation and tree tops (ladder fuels).
- Prune trees so branches and leaves are at least 10-15 feet above the ground.
- Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks," such as gravel walkways, and lawns.
- Remove any dead or dying material from yard and break up continuous patches of brush species to slow fire advance and decrease heat productivity.

Property owners who are unable to do this work themselves are encouraged to hire a licensed professional who both understand this information and can apply it to the property. MLFD maintains a list of qualified contractors that can perform this work.

**1st Inspection:**

The first inspection is done by MLFD, beginning shortly after the snow melts and continues until the first snow in the fall. Parcels found to be non-compliant are issued an inspection form detailing the problems. The homeowner is given a year to correct the identified issues.

**2nd Inspection:**

If the property is then found to be in compliance, the owner will receive a maintenance letter. Thereafter, routine inspections will be conducted periodically by MLFD.

If the property is not in compliance, the owner will be notified in person or via certified mail and the property owner will be given a citation notice. The citation will provide the owner with a time period to correct the identified problems or the individual will be assessed the fine amount. If the problems are left unaddressed, the owner will be subject to a misdemeanor.

Failure to clear your property in accordance with regulations in a timely fashion is not only expensive, but endangers the lives and homes of your neighbors, the community, and the firefighters who protect them.

**Free, Real-Time Property Information Now Available!**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are proud to present ParcelViewer, the Town and County's official web-based property information system. This free, public, on-line service can be relied upon to provide convenient, accurate and up-to-date information, based on the official Assessor's data-base. Use ParcelViewer to view and print customized parcel information and maps, including:

- Zoning Information
- Property Addresses
- Complex Names/ Condo Unit Numbers
- Parcel Lines\*
- Valuation Data
- Acreage
- Aerial imagery of surrounding properties and more!

Visit ParcelViewer today at <http://gis.mono.ca.gov/parcelviewer/>

### **California Mandates Recycling for Business and Multi-Family Residential Locations**

A new State of California Bill (AB 341) directed by CalRecycle mandating commercial recycling in California goes into effect July 1, 2012. The Town of Mammoth Lakes will be providing education and outreach to help the community comply with the new regulations.

The goal of AB 341 is to increase the statewide recycling rates to 75% by 2020. Starting July 1 2012, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week, including multi-family units of five or more will be required to recycle. The purpose of this new law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts while expanding opportunities for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California.

Please use the following link for additional information provided by CalRecycle that addresses the "Frequently Asked Questions:"  
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/FAQ.htm>.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), Sierra Conservation Project (SCP) and Mammoth Disposal (MD) are taking active steps to assist businesses and multi-family residences to comply with the new regulations.

Brian Robinette, owner of Sierra Conservation Project commented, "This is a big step in the right direction for recycling and diverting recyclables from our local landfills. The new regulation will give the extra incentive needed to make recycling programs a reality at all Mammoth Lakes business and residential locations."

The TOML, SCP and MD have been working together for several years to develop and grow recycling programs here in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Johnny Goetz, Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector states, "Now is a great time for local businesses to take advantage of the numerous recycling opportunities we have available in Town. Condominium complexes can also take advantage of the TOML and SCP's recycling programs which are currently providing start-up infrastructure to the complex at no cost - while supplies last."

The TOML and SCP have applied for additional grant money to continue to offset the start-up cost for multi-family and businesses here in town. Bear proof recycling containers are provided to participating condo complexes, and are serviced by SCP.

Pat Fenton, General Manager of Mammoth Disposal added, "Recycling is at the core of the company's goal of sustainability, and it's the core of our commitment to business owners and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to meet this mandate."

The following recycling programs are currently available within the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

- Commercial cardboard recycling
- Restaurant and bar programs
- Lodging and hospitality programs
- Business recycling
- Office recycling
- Residential recycling
- Aluminum, plastic, and glass
- E-Waste
- Used oil and batteries

Some of the benefits of recycling identified by CalRecycle are creating jobs in California, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping valuable materials out of landfills, and creating a healthy environment for the community and future generations by recovering natural resources.

For more information regarding recycling programs and opportunities within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, contact Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 or [jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development Department (Town) and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department (Fire District) have identified an issue with inserted wood burning fireplace installations in town. If you have either a pellet/gas insert installation or a masonry flue/chase, these types of appliances or installations are not an issue. The issue is that wood burning inserts placed into zero clearance fireplace boxes (fireplace) with factory built metal flue pipes and wooden chases may not have adequate clearance to combustible materials (wood, plywood, and/or sheetrock behind the rock, brick, metal and/or wooden material that doesn't allow you to see on the interior surface of the fireplace façade). This issue can exist in all types of residential occupancies, from single family to multi-family projects. As a result of the clearances that may not have been met, combustible materials are igniting and several fires have resulted around town. Thus far there have been no injuries, but both the Town and Fire District feel that we cannot wait until something tragic occurs before we take necessary action. At this point both agencies are hoping to educate the town population to the concern.

The original fireplace contained fires that never obtained very high burning temperatures, due to the amount of heat that went up the flue. Once the insert was installed, the appliance burned much more efficiently causing the combustibles surrounding the original installation to be exposed to significantly greater heat levels. Another factor is the amount of use the insert is experiencing. The issue is occurring throughout town; no certain complex, no certain installer, no certain type of product, nor any other common characteristic that allows the agencies to narrow down the likely installations of concern. One complex in town had 23 of 60 units show some sign of heat damage to combustibles.

Permitted installations during the last 18 to 24 months that followed the manufacturer's installation instructions have been installed correctly. The Town and Fire District do not mean to alarm anyone, but strongly believe that this situation is serious enough to inform the public on the use and installation of these types of wood burning installations. If you need any further assistance or have any

questions, please contact the Fire District at (760) 934-2300 or Town at (760) 934-8989, ex 244. For more information: <http://mammothlakesfd.intuitwebsites.com>

## **Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions**

Some of the most frequently asked questions about legal rentals and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) are:

### **1. What is a transient rental?**

A transient rental is any unit that is occupied for the purpose of sleeping, lodging, or similar reasons for a period of 30 consecutive days or less in exchange for a fee or similar consideration.

### **2. Can I rent my unit as a transient rental?**

Only some zones within the Town of Mammoth Lakes permit transient rentals. The following zones permit transient rentals:

- RMF-2 (Residential Multi-family 2)
- CL (Commercial Lodging)
- CG Commercial General)
- R (Resort, including master plan areas)
- SP (Specific Plan, including North Village and Clearwater)

This list is intended as a guide only. Although the above zones permit transient use generally, other regulations, such as those found in master plans, CC&Rs, or project conditions of approval may prohibit transient rental within a particular development. Generally, transient rental of single family homes is prohibited. A zoning map can be found on the Town's website.

### **3. What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?**

Transient occupancy tax, or TOT, is a 13% tax that is charged "for the privilege of occupancy of any transient occupancy facility." The tax is required to be paid to the operator of the transient occupancy facility at the time the rent is paid. It is the operator's responsibility to remit the TOT to the Town.

### **4. Do I need to pay TOT?**

If you are renting your unit as a transient rental, even if it is only for one weekend a year, you need to pay TOT. This includes single family homes and other units that are not permitted to rent nightly, but may be doing so illegally. TOT shall be remitted for each night the unit is rented.

### **5. Do I need a business tax certificate?**

Yes, if you are renting your unit on a transient basis.

### **6. Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?**

Yes. You are required to purchase a transient occupancy certificate for each rental unit to post in your transient rental property. This is included as part of Schedule E or F in the business tax certificate application.

**7. What is the difference between a business tax certificate and a transient occupancy tax certificate?**

Business tax is an annual tax and is required for all business activity. The transient occupancy tax certificate is a one-time purchase that is non-transferable. This certificate is required to be posted in your transient rental unit.

**8. Do I need a business tax certificate if all of my rentals are handled through a reservation company?**

If all of your rentals are handled through a reservation company, most reservation companies will purchase the transient occupancy tax certificate and collect and remit the TOT to the Town. You may wish to check with your reservation company to confirm that this is being taken care of. If you rent your unit by owner in addition to renting with a property management company, you are also required to obtain a separate business tax certificate and transient occupancy tax certificate.

**9. How do I apply for a business tax certificate?**

The Town's website contains information regarding business tax certificates, including an application for a business tax certificate: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>. Transient Rentals fall under schedule F for condominium rentals and schedule E for hotels, motels, lodges, and campgrounds. This application can be mailed back to the Town, or submitted in person. The total cost for one unit is \$118.00 (\$65.00 application fee, \$5.00 planning review fee, \$25.00 fee to rent one unit, \$23.00 TOT certificate fee). Additional costs apply for additional units. Business tax certificates are required on or before the first day business commences; penalties will apply for late filings. If you have additional questions regarding this process please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245.

**10. Do I have a business tax certificate?**

To find out if you have a valid business tax certificate on file, please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245 or your property management company.

**11. What is illegal rental activity?**

Illegal rental activity is any rental activity that is not consistent with the Town's Zoning Ordinance, or any rental activity that is not compliant with the Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance. This can include transient rental of units located in zones that prohibit transient rentals. It can also include transient rentals in a zone where it is permitted, but when the TOT is not remitted to the Town.

**12. How can I report illegal rental activity?**

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 x275 or on the Town's website via the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email

tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us. Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

### **13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline**

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. The Town will follow-up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line Number is (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or email your information to: [TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us](mailto:TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us).

### **Register for CodeRED**

Residents of Mono County can register their cell phones to receive emergency CodeRED (reverse 911) alerts from Mono County. This is a county public service available to all Mono County residents so please tell your friends and neighbors in Mono County that they can register for this service. CodeRED announcements are for personal notification and will not replace CERT CAHAN notification. Here is how to sign register/sign up using the INTERNET:

1. Go to [monosheriff.org](http://monosheriff.org)
2. scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
3. click on it and follow directions.

### **Leash Law Reminder**

Mammoth residents and visitors are reminded that the Town has a leash law, and it is a violation of the ordinance to allow your dog to run loose off of your property. While budget cuts eliminated the Animal Control Officer position, the laws pertaining to controlling your pets did not change, and you can still be cited by Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers if your dog is at large. The PD is currently receiving a large number of complaints from several neighborhoods, and will be targeting patrol time in those areas when possible to apprehend loose dogs and to cite their owners. In addition to the citation fine, you could also be charged boarding fees by Mono County Animal Control if we choose to impound your dog at the Whitmore Shelter.

At-large dogs are a traffic hazard, and even the most well behaved dog can bite if provoked. If your loose animal causes a traffic collision or injures/bites someone, you would likely be liable for damages, which could add up to thousands of dollars. Please respect your neighbors, AND your pet and obey the leash law.

### **Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has launched a community outreach effort to inform community residents that on July 1, 2011 many homes will be required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide. In an effort to prevent these accidental deaths and injuries, the California legislature enacted SB 183 (Lowenthal) which mandates owners of dwelling intended for human occupancy to install carbon monoxide devices in existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

CO devices must be installed in all specified single-family dwellings by July 1, 2011.



All other specified dwelling units must have CO devices installed by January 1, 2013.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting\\_bml\\_searchcotest.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php). Under the search categories provided select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of devices.

Further details contained within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense.
- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct.
- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.

For a full list of this legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

### **Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance**

In 2003, the Town implemented an outdoor lighting ordinance to eliminate light pollution and preserve views of our starry skies. The outdoor lighting ordinance was adopted to encourage residents to administer a lighting system that not only promotes public safety and night-time ambiance but to maximize energy conservation. To eliminate glare and light trespass into neighboring properties and roadways, the outdoor lighting fixtures on your property should be shielded and re-directed to shine downward or changed out to a lower wattage. More information about responsible lighting can be found at [www.crlaction.org](http://www.crlaction.org).